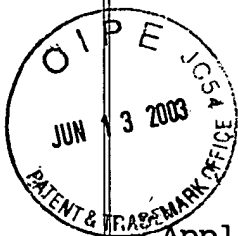


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of :
Hideki KITAJIMA et al. :
Serial No. 09/980,733 ✓ :
Filed: February 12, 2002 :
For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS : Docket No. S004-4432 (PCT)

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MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUN 16 2003
Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In order to place this application in better condition for a complete examination on the merits, applicants preliminarily amend their application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the Title of the Invention and before line 1, insert the following new heading and paragraph:

~~-~~ Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a U.S. national stage application of copending International Application Ser. No.

MAILING CERTIFICATE ON
LAST PAGE